



the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

March, 2014

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON FCC PROCESS REFORM

The Federal Communications Commission is inviting comment on what it terms as its Process Reform. Among the agency's goals is eliminating or streamlining outdated rules that are candidates for such action. This, as a result of marketplace or technology changes that render them no longer necessary in the public interest. Interested parties may file comments on the Report and the proposed recommendations on or before March 31, 2014. All comments should reference GN Docket No. 14-25. Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the agency's Electronic Comment Filing System at apps.fcc.gov/ecfs. The entire notice can be read on-line at tinyurl.com/FCC-rules-reform (FCC, via ARNewsline))

FCC TO PURSUE NEW NET NEUTRALITY RULES

The FCC has announced that it intends to pursue a new version of the Open Internet rules that was struck down by a judge in January. In a recent statement the agency's chairman Tom Wheeler says that he will begin taking public input on an updated set of net neutrality rules. According to Wheeler the FCC will not file an appeal in the case it lost against Verizon. Instead it plans to use the authority that the court granted in its decision to craft new regulations. Wheeler says that preserving the internet as an open platform for innovation and expression while providing certainty and predictability in the marketplace is an important responsibility to his agency. More is on the web at tinyurl.com/new-net-neutrality (The Verge and other news sources, via ARNewsline))

Foundation for Amateur Radio Invites Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is accepting applications from Amateur Radio operators for scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year. The application deadline is April 15. Some scholarships give preference to radio amateurs from California, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. FAR, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, manages 52 scholarships worth a total of \$72,100. There are no age restrictions for any of the scholarships, and applicants do not have to attend a four-year institution. All applicants must be full-time students. Availability of these scholarship awards may offer an incentive to students considering getting a license or already studying for the test to take the leap before April 15.— Dave Prestel, W8AJR, Chairman FAR Scholarship Committee
Go to **FAR scholarships** to get application form and instructions on how to submit



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The award-winning monthly
publication of The BRATS.
Items herein may be reprinted
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

Just take a look at the minutes of the last meeting (see Page 3). Many things are changing, hopefully for the better. Please do plan to join us for our next meetings and participating with us in improving .. See you then,
73, Mayer, W3GXX

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3)
of the internal revenue Code and a non-profit
corporation in the state of Maryland.

Member of and support: The ARRL and The
Foundation for Amateur Radio.

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

email: brats@bratsatv.org

Meeting; 2nd Monday at 7:15 PM at the
Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Road

President: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Vice Pres. Oryx Gazella, K0RYX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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BRATS REPEATERS

Linked Repeaters WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand-Alone repeaters:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT-5: 145.05

W3GXT-10: 224.52

ATV Repeater W3WCQ

Inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS Weekly Nets

Monday, 9 PM – Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 AM- Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM – CATS ATV Net

Thurs. 9 PM – BRATS ATV Net

Sat., 1 PM- Weekly News Bulletin

Sun. 8 PM BRATS ATV Net

As Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors:

Through December, 2014:

K9FXY, K3ZMN

Through December, 2015:

K2GZL, N3GXH

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Second Monday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library 1301 Reisterstown Rd

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, March 10, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library

March, 2014

BRATSMINUTES of the 10 February 2014 Monthly Meeting

Kevin, KB3PLX, chaired meeting.

REPORTS

Minutes - Minutes of January meeting accepted, approved without discussion.

Treasurer – Kevin read the printed report from Jim, KB3SKN. Report accepted, approved. **Repeater/Equipment** – Ken, K3UQQ, verified new ATV amp checks out OK. Notes input power of 4W produced full power output (not 10W as suggested). Some adjustments, installation documentation, and better weather needed prior to Good Samaritan site set up. Completion estimate is 2 mo.

900MHz gear at St. Joseph and other sites can be de-commissioned.

Need to resolve system reboot issues at St. Joseph site.

Need to close out rack acquisition from St. Joseph surplus. Kevin will prepare request and forward to Bob, WA3SWA.

RFArmor added to dish at St. Joseph to reduce side lobe effects.

Fine tuning in process for Voter levels.

Ed, N3GXH, has a distribution amp that will allow splitting video stream to both modulate ATV transmitter and stream video via link and Web site.

Public Service Events – MS Walk, Apr. 13, in Towson at Goucher College

MS Bike Easton, May 31 – June 1, from Talbott County Community Center.

Event Volunteers please contact Ed, N3GXH.

/NEW BUSINESS

Membership Master List – needs to be reconciled against Milliwatt email list and merged to yield one list maintained via Web site. Action to key officers.

JOTA - council very pleased with BRATS participation. We need more support from members.

We've been asked to have more rigs (more antennas, towers, etc. will be needed). Need to check out trailer and do maintenance in advance. Will set up JOTI again and track separate from on-air. Oct. 18-19 dates set; Catonsville area site t.b.d. May do Cubs day one, Scouts day two.

Field Day – Ft. McHenry not available this year due to SailABration activities. Aero Club has again extended an offer to join with them at Essex Sky Park. Broad Creek is another possibility.

No decision.

Hamfest – Having discussions with fairgrounds people to reduce confusion experienced last year.

Date is July 20. Will need to get tickets this year.

Grants – Looking for opportunities for grants submittals to complement our funding. Will seek a meeting with Baltimore County ACS.

Club Project Ideas? – seeking membership input on ideas for joint projects. Ian, N3CVA, asked about mobile radio analysis, possibly combined with another club activity for April-May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter SWLfest – Mar. 14-15, at Plymouth Landing, sponsored by NASWA; info at swlfest.com.

Ted, WA3AER, Secretary

Free Download CQ-DATV March 2014:

ian abel (G3ZHI) on February 22, 2014. CQ-DATV 9 (March) is now available for download from: <http://www.cq-datv.mobi/ebooks.php>.

[This popular ATV magazine is again available in all the usual eBook formats including PDF.]

There is no charge, this is a completely free ATV magazine published every month.]

In this month's issue there is all the news and updates

First-Time W1AW/KG4 Guantanamo Bay Operation Set

As part of ARRL's Centennial QSO Party, Ed Williams, KN4KL, and Bill Verebely, W4WV, will activate W1AW/KG4 from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in late February and early March! The operation will take place Wednesday, February 26, through Tuesday, March 4 UTC. This may mark the first time the US Navy has authorized the use of a "portable" call sign from Gitmo. QSL via ARRL Headquarters (225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111) or Logbook of The World (LoTW).

POLAND GIVES HAMS TWO NEW BANDS

As of February 18th, two new bands have been made available to ham radio operators in Poland. The first is 472 to 479 kHz with up to 1 Watt of Effective Radiated Power. The other spectrum is from 122.25 to 123.00 Gigahertz. Both are allocated to the Polish amateur service on a secondary non interfering basis to other services using the same spectrum. (Southgate, others, via ARNewsline)

2014 FIELD DAY PACKETS AVAILABLE.

The ARRL has announced that the 2014 Field Day packets are now available on-line at arrrl.org/field-day. This years Field Day takes place on June 28 and 29th. (ARRL)

Bulgarian Amateurs get New Bands

In the future, Bulgarian amateurs have been allowed 472-479 KHz 5250 to 5450 MHz and 70.0 to 70.5 MHz. in addition, the 1.8 MHz band has been extended to 2 MHz. All of the above are on a secondary basis (GB2RS)

UK amateur hears Jade Rabbit on the Moon

Beijing's Jade Rabbit lunar rover had been thought to be dead but its radio signal on 8.4GHz was received by radio amateur Paul Marsh, M0EYT on 12 February. This is a remarkable achievement as the relatively low-power transmitter was never intended to be received by amateurs on Earth. News outlets including CNN have reported on Paul's feat. Pictures and the full story can be found via the AMSAT UK website.

CANADIAN HAMS GET PERMINANT ACCESS TO 135HZ BAND

Industry Canada has approved permanent access by Canadian radio amateurs to the Low Frequency band from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, subject to certain conditions put in place in late 2009. This includes a maximum emission bandwidth of only 100 Hz as well as a maximum Effective Radiated Power level not to exceed one watt. Also, as this is a shared allocation which Canadian hams may not cause interference to the primary users of this spectrum including stations in other nations that operate radio-navigation services. The addition of permanent access to 135.7 to 137.8 kHz is a direct result of Canada implementing changes from the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference which added amateur radio use of this spectrum on a secondary basis. This has now been included in the newly updated Canadian RBR-4 Standards for the Operation of Stations in that nation's Amateur Radio Service. (RAC, VE3YV, VE3KI, VE3IQ)

ARRL DX BULLETIN

ANTARCTICA. Lee, DS4NMJ is QRV as D8A from the new station Jang Bogu at Terra Nova Bay near the Italian station Zucchelli until January 31, 2015. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via HL2FDW.

CRETE, SV9. Jukka, OH2AXE is now a permanent resident on Crete and is QRV as SV9/OH2AXE. QSL direct to home call.

VIET NAM, XV. Toshi, JA8BMK is QRV as XV2BM until March 25. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. Champ, E21EIC is QRV as XW0YJY until June 30. He is active holiday style on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Mar 1-2	ARRL Int'l DX Contest, SSB
March 2	DARC 10-Mtr. Digital Contest
March 4	AGCW YL CW Party
March 8	AGCW QRP Contest
Mar 8-9	Idaho QSO Party
Mar 9-10	Wisconsin QSO Party
Mar 15-16	BARTG HF RTTY Contest
	Russian DX Contest
	Virginia QSO Party
Mar 22-23	Oklahoma QSO Party
	Louisiana QSO Party
Mar 29-30	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

Mellish Reef DXpedition Ready to Pick Up the Post-FT5ZM Slack

When the hubbub generated by the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition is still echoing in our ears, the Mellish Reef VK9MT DXpedition will be waiting in the wings to launch its own adventure on the Amateur Radio airwaves. VK9MT will be handing out another rare one March 29 through April 9 from the Coral Sea atoll. "We are on schedule and will soon be on autopilot," the team announced in late January. The team said that one of its biggest logistical challenges will be the purchase of 1400 liters of "petrol" (gasoline) to fuel generators. The team has selected the 25 meter passenger expedition yacht *Evohe* from New Zealand to transport operators and gear to Mellish Reef. Given the paucity of dry ground at the operating site, DXpedition participants plan to take their meals and sleep on the vessel. The skipper of *Evohe* has agreed to handle the sourcing and take delivery of the fuel. This month generators, antennas, feed lines, and accessories will be heading to Australia. Located some 1150 kilometers north-northeast of Brisbane, Australia, Mellish Reef takes the form of a boomerang-shaped platform some 10 kilometers long and 3 kilometers wide. According to the VK9MT website, the surrounding reefs, which enclose a narrow lagoon, are completely submerged or awash at high tide. Near the lagoon's center is the only permanent land — Heralds-Beacon Islet — a small cay rising just a few meters above the high-water mark and composed largely of sand, shingle and coral rubble. The schedule calls for 10 full days of operation on 160 through 10 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY, with 10 operators. Six members of the successful ZL9HR operation from Campbell Island in December 2012 are among the team members.

WESTERN SAHARA IN MARCH

DX-World.net is reporting that 3Z9DX is planning to operate stroke S0 from the Western Sahara territory for one week only sometime in mid-March. The exact dates are yet to be determined but his activity will be on 40 through 10 meters using SSB only. QSL this one via 3Z9DX.

VE EXAMS

LARC. 364 Main S.I Laurel, 3rd Sat., 9 AM
John, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124

Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum
4th Tuesday at 6 PM, Harold, WB4OGP
410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829 (w)

Aero ARC: White Marsh Library 1 PM,
walk-ins welcome
Nov. 23. ARRL VEC \$15 testing fee.
Pat. AC3F, 410-687-7209; ac3f@juno.c

BARC VE EXAMS

12360 Owings Mills Blvd,
Register at 1:30; exams at 2.

March 1

No session in April
May 3, June 7, July 13,
August 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 5,
Nov 8, Dec 6...
January, July and October
are Sunday sessions.
(Thanks, N3YI)

Hamfests: See back cover

Ham Classes

MARC

The Montgomery College Chapter of the IEEE and Montgomery Amateur Radio Club are planning a public free Technician Class licensing class on six successive Saturdays starting March 1, 2014.

Location: Science Center, fourth floor, room 424; Montgomery College; 51 Mannakee Street; Rockville, MD 20850

dates: Saturdays, March 1, 2014 to April 5, 2014; time: 9 AM to 12 Noon; fee: Free (zero, nada, null)
instructor: David Bern, W2I NX, and friends; suggested book: The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 2nd Edition (Book and CD-ROM), ISBN: 978-0872590977

class registration and further information: David Bern, W2LNK education@marclub.org

CARA

CARA, the Columbia Amateur Radio Association, will be conducting a two day license class on the weekend of March 8 and 9. Classes begin at 8:00 and end at 4:30 on both days. There will be a one hour break for lunch each day.

Location: : The course will be given at the Howard Community College club station, W3HCC in Columbia, MD.; To reach the campus, take Rt. 29 to Broken Land Parkway, west. Take Broken Land to the first light, which is Hickory Ridge Road. Take Hickory Ridge to the campus entrance, which will be on your right. The station is located in a trailer building, which will be the first structure on your right after the campus athletic and fitness center. Parking is available in the surface lot across from the station, or in the nearby parking garage. There is no charge for the course and course materials will be provided. For further information, contact Steve Buzckowski, KB3RRJ, at kb3rrj@gmail.com
Map: <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGFyopxqmdKbldqNGxadDZIQ1U/edit?usp=sharing>>

Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or
email to w3qyk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144\$125. You pick
up- HRO discount price \$199. Took down
to put up dual band antenna. N3BHE
410-299-5931.

FOR SALE: ICOM T2H 2 mtr. HT w/ charger
belt clip, rubber ducky, manual, asking \$80
K3BCD: 410-866-5441; or wmm@comcast.net

SPECIAL OFFER! ICOM BC-110 battery charger,
12vDC, 200 ma, for ICOM T8A or equivalent,
almost new, cost \$46, make me a reasonable
offer. Also, WANTED: Battery for ICOM T8A.
Mayer, W3GXX, w3qyk@verizon.net

FOR SALE: ICOM 745, 200 watt HF scvr, PIEXX
IC-EX 243 physical electric keyer, PROM memory
board, standard mike, 13v. power cord. No power
supply. Will consider trade, currency or both
KB3RLD@arrl.net

LitSat-1 with linear transponder deploys Friday

Lithuania is heading towards a historic moment – with
the launch of the first Lithuanian satellite in space. The
amateur radio CubeSat LitSat-1, call sign LY1LS, is
planned to be deployed from the International Space
Station (ISS) on Friday, February 28 at 0730 UT. It
carries a 435/145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW
communications

WANTED: Original DJ580T in working order,
order with battery pack, charger, contact
N3YI@yahoo.com

JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore 21228
443-667-4187. joe@jadecomputers.us
web page design, hosting, order PC on-line,
<http://www.jadecomputers.us>

VTS Video Taping Service

Video, DVD duplications, video tape
transferred to DVD, standards, conversions,
1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro
K2MYS. <http://www.videotaping-service.com>

Antique radio repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, audio visual service, retro
radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore 21211
410-467-3620. Wa3tad@comcast.net

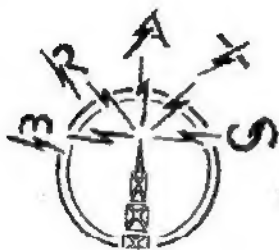
WANTED: AT 930 for TS 930S. Jerry
jerrymcd@sbcglobal.net

WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new
large, small, need not be complete. CASH
PAID. Lewis, 410-296-4874]

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452. Greg
WB2LOO. gjm313@verizon.net

HAMVENTION ON-LINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE

The online ordering system is now
accepting Hamvention 2014 orders.
According to an announcement the
Hamvention's Webmaster Richard
Rieben, KE4WLE, you can now order
your tickets or reserve a flea
market spot. Its all on-line at
hamvention.org. (KE4WLE)



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Hamfests

Saturday, April 5 – Timonium MD
The Greater Baltimore Hamboree
MD State Fair Grounds, Timonium
ONE DAY ONLY!! Free VE Exams aa
at 9 AM; BARC. 443-590-1444

Sunday, June 8: Manassas, VA
Ole Virginia Hams ARC Hamfest
Prince William Co Fairgrounds, Manassas
info: manassashamfest.org

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager,
reports that the following operation is approved for
DXCC credit: FT5ZM – Amsterdam & St. Paul
Island; 2014 Operation

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, March 10, 7:15 PM
Pikesville Library

OTHER CLUB MEETINGS:

QCWA: Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie
7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie
3rd Thursday, 1 PM, Old Country
Buffet, Joppa at Satyr Hill
Last Wednesday, 1 PM, Denny's
Bel Air Road at Putty Hill

AARC: 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Davidson Family Rec. Center
Queen Anne Bridge Road

AMRAD: 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Dolley Madison Library
14 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, VA

BARC: 1st and 3rd Wednesday,
7:30 PM, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd.,
Owings Mills, MD

CARA: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Gateway Center, Room 401
6751 Gateway Dr., Columbia, MD

BRATS MEMBERSHIP FORM: Regular, \$15; Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10; Family: \$20

NAME _____ CALL _____ BRATS No. _____
Street _____ City _____ State/Zip _____
e-mail _____ ill to: BRATS, Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915